

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the family is the cornerstone of our communities, state, and nation, and children are the future of society; and

WHEREAS, the care, protection, and nurturing of children has traditionally been the responsibility of biological parents, with support from other family members and the community; and

WHEREAS, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and siblings are stepping forward in ever-increasing numbers to assume full, daily parental responsibilities for children whose parents are unable or unwilling to appropriately parent their children; and

WHEREAS, these kin face day-to-day living challenges as well as emotional, financial, and legal obstacles, often alone and without support; and

WHEREAS, their commitment to these children is to provide a healthy, safe, and happy childhood; and

WHEREAS, the number of children being cared for by kin is increasing daily and the length of time they remain with kin has gone from months to years, and these children often view their caregiving kin as their 'Mom and Dad;' and

WHEREAS, the significance of the care and nurturing of these children by their kin deserves to be recognized;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 21, 2008, as

Kinship Caregiver Day

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 17th day of March, 2008

Christine O. Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire